RELATED ISSUE 3

To what extent should internationalism be pursued?

Key Issue
To what extent should we embrace nationalism?

Related Issue 1
To what extent should nation be the foundation of identity?

Related Issue 2
To what extent should national interest be pursued?

Related Issue 3
To what extent should internationalism be pursued?

Related Issue 4
To what extent should individuals and groups in Canada embrace a national identity?

Chapter 9

Nations, Nations-States, and Internationalism

To what extent does involvement in international affairs benefit nations and states?

What are some common motives of nations and states?

How do the motives of nations and states shape their responses to the world?

What are some understandings of internationalism?

How does internationalism benefit nations and states?

Chapter 10

Foreign Policy and Internationalism

To what extent can foreign policy promote internationalism?

How do countries set foreign policy?

How can states promote internationalism through foreign policy?

How does Canadian foreign policy try to balance national interest and internationalism?

Chapter 11

Internationalism and Nationalism

To what extent do efforts to promote internationalism through world organizations affect nationalism?

How have changing world conditions promoted the need for internationalism?

How have the United Nations' changing international responses affected nationalism?

How do the responses of various international organizations affect nationalism?

Chapter 12

Internationalism and Global Issues

To what extent can internationalism effectively address contemporary global issues?

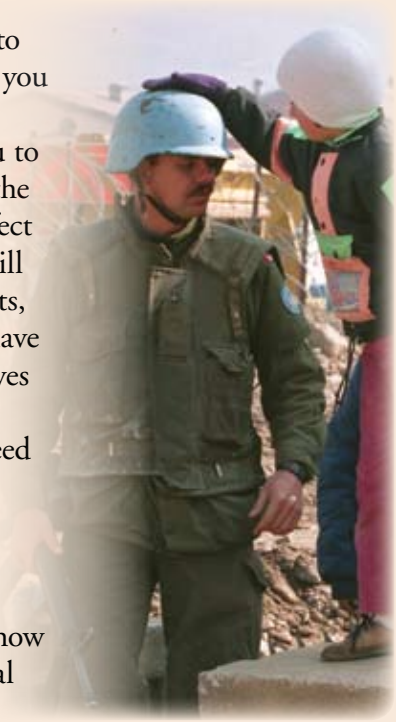
What are some contemporary global issues?

How has internationalism been used to address contemporary global issues?

Is internationalism always the most effective way of addressing contemporary global issues?

The Big Picture

To stay alive, you must breathe, drink, and eat. You have no choice. But in other situations, you may face many choices. When this happens, what motivates you to choose one course of action over another? What motivates you, for example, to study instead of going to a movie with friends — or vice versa? What motivates you to take an after-school job — or not?



Understanding your motives and how they affect your choices enables you to make decisions that are in your best interest. In the same way, understanding the motives of nations and nation-states can help you understand the forces that affect decisions made by governments. In the four chapters of this related issue, you will explore some of these forces, the choices they present to peoples and governments, the decisions that governments have made as a result, and how these decisions have affected international relationships. You will also analyze and evaluate the motives that lie behind foreign policy decisions and how nations and countries adjust to changing world conditions while balancing their national interest against the need to respond to and resolve global issues.

In developing your understanding of the relationships that connect people, groups, and governments to the international community, you will also explore the motives that encourage individuals, groups, and countries to participate in international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental — and how international participation can affect nations, nation-states, and the international community.

The chart on the preceding page shows how you will progress through the chapters of Related Issue 3. As you explore this related issue, you will come to appreciate

- that the relationships among countries are complex and dynamic
- that individuals, groups, and countries participate in international organizations for a complex variety of reasons
- that a country's foreign policies can affect you and others both directly and indirectly
- that changing world conditions and globalization have affected international participation on an individual, regional, and national level — and have sparked a shift in the relationships among individuals, groups, and countries

Your Challenge

Participate in an international summit convened to respond to the international water crisis. The summit will focus on this issue: Should management of the world's water resources be taken out of the hands of national governments and turned over to an international body?

As you explore responses to this question, you will also be responding to the question for this related issue: To what extent should internationalism be pursued?

✔ Checklist for Success

Use this checklist to ensure that your presentation includes everything necessary to be successful.

My Knowledge and Understanding

☑ My position on the issue is clearly stated.

☑ My facts are clearly presented.

☑ My position is supported by reliable, valid evidence.

My Selection, Analysis, and Evaluation of Information

☑ My information was drawn from a variety of reliable sources that are cited correctly and accurately.

☑ My information reflects diverse points of view and perspectives.

☑ My criteria for judgment are clearly explained.

My Presentation

☑ My presentation engages the audience and provides opportunities for audience feedback and interaction.

☑ My presentation is respectful of others.

☑ My presentation is supported by interesting graphics and uses technology appropriately.

Some Background Information

The 2007 report of the World Water Council, a non-governmental organization that tracks and responds to water-related issues, predicted that, by 2020, the world will need 17 per cent more fresh, clean water than is now available. Predictions like this led Ismail Serageldin, a former vice-president of the World Bank and founder and former chair of the Global Water Partnership, to declare in 1999 that "the wars of the [21st] century will be about water."

Experts believe that less than 0.08 per cent of the earth's water is suitable for human use. The rest is salt water or frozen at the poles. Kevin Conway of the International Development Research Centre said: "If we were to imagine all the earth's water in a 1000-litre bucket filled to brimming, the fraction that is fresh water and not locked in ice is a mere 25 millilitres. Rough estimates place South America's share of that total at about half. Asia gets almost 6.25 millilitres, leaving the remainder — another 6.25 millilitres — for everyone living in North and Central America, Europe, Australia, Africa, and the Middle East."

Conway believes in community-based water management and does not believe that international action will resolve the crisis. "It is at [the local level] that the effects of water scarcity are most keenly felt, and it is here that solutions must be implemented," he has said.

But Robert Svadlenka, who has studied the crisis, believes that international action is essential. "Like the air we breathe, [water] is something that we often take for granted. Once assumed unlimited in supply, now even developed nations are realizing its limits. It is the most precious of all resources, an essential component of almost every human activity, and vital to the health of all ecosystems . . . And it is running out."

Water by the Numbers

- By 2025, 20 per cent more water than is now available will be needed to support the additional 3 billion people who will live on Earth.
- Aquifers, which store water underground, supply 1/3 of the world's water and are being pumped out faster than nature can replenish them.
- Half the world's rivers and lakes are seriously polluted.
- Major rivers, such as the Yangtze, Ganges, and Colorado, do not flow to the sea anymore because of dams and upstream water taking.

Preparing for and Participating in the Summit

Step 1

In a group of five or six, refer to the chart titled "Summit Stakeholders and Goals." Assign one stakeholder to each group member. At the summit, the group member will play the role of her or his assigned stakeholder.

Work with your group to organize a process for exchanging views. You may, for example, decide that each stakeholder will open with a one-minute statement, then have three minutes to present supporting arguments. This can be followed by a two-minute question-and-answer session. To close, each stakeholder may have a minute to present counter-arguments, suggestions for compromise, or a final appeal for support.

Step 2

Work independently to prepare a presentation of your stakeholder's position. Start by developing three or four inquiry questions to help guide your research. If you are representing the delegation from Canada, for example, one of your questions might ask how Canada can balance its international responsibilities and its national interest.

Step 3

Decide how you will make your case to other stakeholders, whose goals may be different from yours. Prepare your presentation.

Think about the positions other stakeholders are likely to present. Use your research to prepare counter-arguments.

Step 4

Convene your summit. When the presentations and follow-up are complete, work with your group to try to achieve consensus. Discuss the success of the process you used and prepare a media release summing up your conclusions. If your group was unable to achieve consensus, your release should say this — and explain why.

Step 5

Share your media release with the class. As a class, discuss whether an international summit is an appropriate forum for dealing with the water crisis.

Summit Stakeholders and Goals

Stakeholder	Goals
United Nations	To set criteria for an international body to monitor water use by member states To persuade member states to participate To develop creative incentives to persuade member states to comply
Canada	To retain sovereignty over water To show understanding of the crisis and willingness to help by offering aid and expertise
An Environmental Group	To set up an international panel to ensure that the world's water supply is respected and benefits everyone To ensure that individual countries seek the panel's approval for large-scale water programs To develop trade penalties or sanctions to force countries to comply
A Developing Country (Choose a country such as China, India, or Zambia.)	To gain access to enough fresh, clean water to support the country's citizens To ensure that everyone in all countries has access to enough water
Think Global, Act Local (Group dedicated to local, grassroots action)	To ensure that solutions focus on local actions To involve top scientists in working with local communities and countries to tailor solutions to fit local circumstances
Interior Alliance (Southern Carrier, St'at'imc, Secwepemc, Nlaka'pamux, and Okanagan peoples of British Columbia)	To ensure that water is accessible to First Nations To promote First Nations' inherent rights to care for lands and water as environmental stewards To promote First Nations' rights to participate on a government-to-government basis in decisions affecting resources